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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,954	08/08/2001	Shell S. Simpson	1008230-1	2018

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EXAMINER

BLACKWELL, JAMES H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/923,954	Applicant(s) SIMPSON ET AL.	
	Examiner James H. Blackwell	Art Unit 2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-12, 14 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6, 7 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-12, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/25/2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 14, and 15 are pending. Claims 6-7, and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1, and 14-15 are independent claims.
3. The Examiner acknowledges amendment made to the Specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nehab et al. (hereinafter Nehab, U.S. Patent No. 6,029,182, filed 10/04/1996) in view of Smith et al. (hereinafter Smith, U.S. Patent No. 5,181,162, filed 12/06/1989).

In regard to independent Claim 1 (and similarly independent Claims 14, and 15), Nehab teaches WebFormatter, which is a system for processing a hypermedia document.

Nehab continues by teaching *receiving a request for a single composition composed of a plurality of graphics, each graphic accessible from one of a plurality of different sources* in that the system accesses the hypermedia document, extracts addresses from the hypermedia document, and stores the addresses extracted from the hypermedia document in a container (Col. 12, lines 64-67; Col. 13, lines 1-3). Nehab's invention contains the components (*references*) to the composition in a container that is then further processed by the system to retrieve data stored at the addresses in the container to a memory, and extracts predetermined data from the downloaded data in accordance with predetermined configuration information (Col. 13, lines 3-11). This compares with the limitation, *obtaining, for each of the plurality of different sources, a reference to the graphic accessible from that source.*

Nehab continues by teaching that extracted data is reformatted into a formatted document. The formatted document can then be printed, stored in an RFT (Rich Text Format) file, or edited in any RTF compatible editor such as MS Word, WordPerfect, Wordpad, etc. (Col. 13, lines 22-30). Thus, Nehab teaches *creating the single composition that includes each reference and information for positioning each referenced graphic within a document generated by processing the composition.*

Nehab does fail in this embodiment to teach positioning information for each graphic. However, in a first embodiment discussed by Nehab is taught a similar system which does allow the user, within the context of profiling information, to define formatting information for the document associated with each URL reference (see Figs. 9A-C, where for a given URL, layout and formatting information is defined by the user)

Smith teaches an invention that decomposes a given document into logical components, which are stored as discrete "objects" in an object-oriented computational environment. Stored objects are organized, accessed and manipulated through a database management system (DBMS). The DBMS provides a coherent, consistent encoding of object content, object attributes and inter-object relationships. Ultimately, the objects are assembled into an integrated whole when the document is to be physically produced, i.e., printed or displayed electronically or electronically transmitted.

Smith continues by teaching that, at a minimum, objects contain "content," that is, basic information-bearing constituents such as text, image, voice or graphics. Objects may also contain further data ("attributes") specifying (a) logical or physical relationships to other objects or to the document as a whole, (b) characteristics relating to the appearance of the content (e.g., format, layout), or (c) access restrictions. For example, a check may be divided into the simple logical objects "check number," "payee," "payor," "amount," "signature," and "account number." The content of the logical object "check number" will be the representative characters, but this object might also contain a layout attribute indicating that it is to be placed at the upper-left-hand corner of the check document. A character font may also be specified. In addition to

attribute data, an object can contain procedures that store, send, delete, modify and display the object (Col. 2, lines 54-67; Col. 3, lines 1-13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Nehab and Smith as both inventions relate to the composition of documents from selected components. The addition of the Smith invention to Nehab provides the benefit of providing a more complete set of parameters, including formatting and layout information, telling each component it's "place" in the composition in addition to its content.

In regard to dependent Claim 2, Nehab teaches *the obtaining step comprises obtaining a reference to a graphic accessible from a different web site* in that container contents screen (87) provides four buttons; i.e., Add current URL button (88) which adds the current URL to container (76), Delete button (89) which permits a user to highlight and delete a URL in container (76), Empty button (90) which permits a user to empty container (76), and Done button (91) which permits a user to close Container Contents screen (87) (Col. 16, lines 4-12).

In regard to dependent Claim 3, Nehab does not specifically teach that *at least one graphic is generated dynamically at the different web site, when the web site is accessed*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to assume that any one or more of the URL's specified in Nehab's Container Contents screen (87) (shown in Fig. 9B) could have pointed to a web site whose pages were generated dynamically either in part or as a whole since Nehab's invention specifically deals with the generation of a personalized Newspaper; the

content of news sources is commonly dynamic just as news itself is dynamic. The benefit would have been to provide the latest information to the user.

In regard to dependent Claim 4, Nehab teaches that *each of a plurality of the different sources are on different web sites from said assembling web site* in that a data retrieval system which can retrieve articles from a news service, from a magazine service, or from a combination of both services which are located on the World Wide Web, a private computer network that supports hypermedia links, or any other hypermedia-linked computer system is taught (Col. 1, lines 13-19).

In regard to dependent Claim 5, Nehab teaches *the obtaining step comprises accessing at least two different web sites and retrieving information therefrom* in that a data retrieval system which can retrieve articles from a news service, from a magazine service, or from a combination of both services which are located on the World Wide Web, a private computer network that supports hypermedia links, or any other hypermedia-linked computer system is taught (Col. 1, lines 13-19).

In regard to dependent Claim 8, Nehab teaches that *the single composition designates a referenced graphic a position that is different relative to that of another referenced graphic* in that Figs. 4 and 5 the process by which personal-news-profile (19) is defined. To create personal-news-profile (19), personal-news-profile editor (16) communicates with personal-news-profile (19), site profile (20), and Web reader (34). Personal-news-profile (19) contains information as to what sites to access for creating a personalized newspaper, what sections to retrieve from those sites, rules to be used to

determine what data to extract from the sections and the articles therein, rules to determine how to exclude links, and newspaper format information (Col. 7, lines 23-34).

In regard to dependent Claim 9, Nehab teaches that *at least one of the sources is a file* in that in alternative embodiments of WebFormatter, a filename can also be entered into URL address field (44). For example, in these alternative embodiments, if a user wishes to format a hyper-linked manual into a book-like format, the user enters the filename into URL address field (44). Thereafter, WebFormatter proceeds through the file in the same manner as through specified Web pages in order to reformat the hyper-linked manual as desired (Col. 14, lines 36-42).

In regard to dependent Claim 10, Nehab teaches *the using step comprises serving the composition to an imaging client* in that WebFormatter is stand-alone utility software that can be used in conjunction with different Web browsers, such as Netscape, Mosaic and Internet Explorer. In short, WebFormatter extracts data from a Web page, strips out extemporaneous data from the extracted data, and reformats the data into a formatted document. The formatted document can then be printed, stored in an RTF (Rich Text Format) file, or edited in any RTF compatible editor, such as MS Word, WordPerfect, Wordpad, etc (Col. 13, lines 22-30).

In regard to dependent Claim 11, Nehab teaches that *the using step comprises printing the composition* in that the invention also provides a method for synthesizing all retrieved news articles and printing the synthesized news articles into a newspaper-type format in which each of the articles is arranged based on a user's predefined layout (Col. 1, lines 30-34).

In regard to dependent Claim 12, Nehab does not teach that *the using step comprises sending the composition by email to a designated web site*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to email the composition, just as one can email other documents, graphics, audio and video to a web site capable of handling email, allowing for the efficient transport of the contents of a composition to another web site for possible posting.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments, see RCE, filed 08/25/2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-12, 14-15, and 18 under Nehab in view of Ferrel have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Nehab in combination with Smith. Specifically, Applicant argued that neither Nehab nor Ferrel taught the limitation whereby positioning information was associated with each reference to content (graphic). The Examiner respectfully agrees only if the interpretation of the claim language is meant to describe positioning information that is attached to each reference prior to retrieval. Another interpretation, that the designer of the composition adds the positional information to each component, is found in the Nehab reference and similarly in the newly added Smith reference. It is this interpretation that was used in the new rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James H. Blackwell whose telephone number is 571-272-4089. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James H. Blackwell
10/13/05

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
10/17/2005